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How to make "pan bati" and "funchi"



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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

MONDAY:

ANDERSON BAHAMON
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

TUESDAY:

JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY:

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

THURSDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

FRIDAY:

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.

SATURDAY:

RICKY THOMAS
GUITAR
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.



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California bans most law enforcement officers from wearing masks during operations



Mayor Karen Bass speaks during an immigration rally on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025, in Los Angeles.

By **TRÂN NGUYEN** and **MARTHA BELLISLE**
Associated Press

California became the first state to ban most law enforcement officers, including federal immigration

agents, from covering their faces while conducting official business under a bill that was signed Saturday by Gov. Gavin Newsom and swiftly denounced by Trump administration officials.

Associated Press

The ban is a direct response to recent immigration raids in Los Angeles, where federal agents wore masks while making mass arrests. The raids prompted days of protest and led President Donald Trump to deploy National Guard troops and Marines to the area.

Newsom said at a news conference in Los Angeles, where he signed the bill flanked by state lawmakers, education leaders and immigrant community members, that California is unique in that 27% of its residents are foreign born.

"We celebrate that diversity. It's what makes California great. It's what makes America great. It is under assault," he said.

The Democratic governor

said the state is pushing back against the practice of masked agents without identification or badge numbers detaining people on the streets.

"The impact of these policies all across this city, our state and nation are terrifying," Newsom said. "It's like a dystopian sci-fi movie. Unmarked cars, people in masks, people quite literally disappearing. No due process, no rights, no right in a democracy where we have rights. Immigrants have rights, and we have the right to stand up and push back, and that's what we're doing here today."

But it's unclear how — or whether — the state can enforce the ban on federal agents.

Trump administration officials have defended use of masks, saying immigration agents face strident and increasing harassment in public and online as they carry out enforcement in service of Trump's drive toward mass deportation. Obscuring their identities is necessary for the safety of the agents and their families, officials contend.

Bill Essayli, acting U.S. attorney for Southern California, said on the social platform X that the state does not have jurisdiction over the federal government and he has told agencies the mask ban has no effect on their operations. "Our agents will continue to protect their identities," he said.

Essayli also criticized Newsom's comment on X saying Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem was "going to have a bad day today," adding that there is zero tolerance for "direct or implicit threats against government officials." He referred the matter to the Secret Service, which said in a statement, also on X, that it could not comment on the specific case but must investigate any potential threat.

DHS official criticizes California law

Tricia McLaughlin, Homeland Security assistant secretary for public affairs, called it "despicable and a flagrant attempt to endanger our of-

ficers."

"While our federal law enforcement officers are being assaulted by rioters and having rocks and Molotov cocktails thrown at them, a sanctuary politician is trying to outlaw officers wearing masks to protect themselves from being doxxed and targeted by known and suspected terrorist sympathizers," she said via email. The men and women of federal immigration agencies put their lives on the line to arrest violent criminal illegal aliens, she said, and rhetoric like Newsom's has contributed to a surge in assaults. Newsom countered that concerns about doxing agents, or publishing their personal information online, are unfounded and unproven.

"There's an assertion that somehow there is an exponential increase in assaults on officers, but they will not provide the data," he said. "All they have provided is misinformation and misdirection."

Ban applies to various face coverings, includes some exceptions

The new law prohibits neck gaiters, ski masks and other facial coverings for local and federal officers, including immigration enforcement agents, while they conduct official business. It makes exceptions for undercover agents, medical masks such as N95 respirators or tactical gear, and it does not apply to state police.

Democrats in Congress and lawmakers in several states, including Tennessee, Michigan, Illinois, New York, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania, have introduced similar proposals calling for mask bans.

Proponents of the California law said it is especially needed after the Supreme Court ruled this month that the Trump administration can resume its sweeping immigration operations in Los Angeles. The law aims to boost public trust in law enforcement and stop people from impersonating officers to commit crimes, supporters said. □




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Trump nominates White House aide to be top U.S. prosecutor for office probing Letitia James

By **ALANNA DURKIN RICHER**
and **MEG KINNARD**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Saturday that he would be nominating senior White House aide Lindsey Halligan to serve as the top federal prosecutor for the Virginia office that was thrown into turmoil when its U.S. attorney was pushed out Friday.

In a social media post just after he departed the White House for an event at Mount Vernon, Trump wrote he was nominating Halligan as U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, writing that she "will be Fair, Smart, and will provide, desperately needed, JUSTICE FOR ALL!" The announcement came as Trump pressed Attorney General Pam Bondi to move forward with pursuing cases against some of his political opponents, part of a vow for retribution that has been a theme of his return to the White House.

The nomination would place one of the president's legal defenders in charge of an office in turmoil over political pressure by administration officials to criminally charge New York Attorney General Letitia James, a longtime foe of Trump, in a mortgage fraud investigation.



Lindsey Halligan, special assistant to the president, speaks with a reporter outside of the White House, Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2025, in Washington.

Erik Siebert, who had been the office's top prosecutor, resigned amid a push by Trump administration officials to bring charges in the investigation, which stems from allegations of paperwork discrepancies on James' Brooklyn townhouse and a Virginia home. The Justice Department has spent months investigating, and there's been no indication that prosecutors have managed to uncover any degree of incriminating evi-

dence necessary to secure an indictment. James' lawyers have vigorously denied any allegations and characterized the investigation as an act of political revenge. Halligan has been part of Trump's legal orbit for the last several years, including serving as one of his attorneys in the early days of the FBI's investigation into Trump's retention of classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida. She has more recently been en-

listed in a White House effort to remove what the administration contends is "improper ideology" from Smithsonian properties.

Earlier Saturday, Trump posted to social media what appeared to be somewhat of an open letter to Bondi, saying he had "reviewed over 30 statements and posts" that he characterized as criticizing his administration for a lack of action on investigations, including the one into James' dealings. Trump's

message mentioned former FBI Director James Comey, Trump's longtime foil whom he fired during his first term amid the Russia election interference investigation.

The FBI acknowledged this summer that it was investigating Comey, who was interviewed by the Secret Service after an Instagram post that Republicans insisted was a call for violence against Trump. Comey has said he did not mean the post as a threat and removed it once he realized how it was being interpreted.

"We have to act fast — one way or the other," Trump said. "They're guilty, they're not guilty — we have to act fast. If they're not guilty, that's fine. If they are guilty or if they should be charged, they should be charged. And we have to do it now."

In announcing Halligan's nomination soon after on social media, Trump said that Bondi was "doing a GREAT job."

The selection of Halligan came just hours after another conservative lawyer, Mary "Maggie" Cleary, said in an email to staff that she had been named acting U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, according to a copy viewed by The Associated Press. □

Associated Press

Trump reveals Murdochs and Dell could potentially take part in TikTok deal

By **ALAN SUDERMAN**
AP Business Writer

President Donald Trump said prominent billionaires — including media mogul Rupert Murdoch and tech founder Michael Dell — could be part of a deal in which the U.S. will take control of the social video platform TikTok.

Trump namedropped the 94-year-old Murdoch and his son Lachlan Murdoch, the head of Fox News and News Corp, as part of a group of possible participants in a deal during an interview recorded Friday and aired Sunday on Fox News.

"I think they're going to be in the group. A couple of others. Really great people, very prominent people,"

Trump said. "And they're also American patriots, you know, they love this country. I think they're going to do a really good job."

Trump's disclosure of the potential involvement of the Murdochs and Dell, the founder and CEO of Dell Technologies, is the latest twist in a fast-moving potential deal to keep TikTok operating in the U.S.

Trump also said Sunday that tech giant Oracle founder and CEO Larry Ellison was part of the same group. His involvement had been previously disclosed. On Saturday, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Oracle would be responsible for the app's data and security and

that Americans will control six of the seven seats for a planned board.

Much is still unknown about the actual deal in the works. Trump discussed the TikTok deal with China's Xi Jinping in a lengthy phone call on Friday. Chinese and U.S. officials have until Dec. 16 to hash out the details, following the latest deadline extension by the Trump administration.

TikTok is a hugely popular app currently owned by a Chinese company, ByteDance. American officials have warned the algorithm TikTok uses to shape what users see is vulnerable to manipulation by Chinese authorities, who can use it



The TikTok logo is pictured in Tokyo, Sept. 28, 2020.

Associated Press

to push content on the platform in a way that's difficult to detect.

Congress passed legislation calling for a TikTok ban to go into effect in January, but Trump has repeatedly signed orders that have allowed TikTok to keep operating in the United States as his administration tries to reach an agreement for the social

media company's parent company to sell its U.S. operations.

On Sunday, Trump said that he was "a little prejudiced" about TikTok because he credited the app for helping him connect with young voters. Trump said slain conservative activist Charlie Kirk encouraged the president to use the app. □

Man is arrested and charged in New Hampshire country club shooting

By **ALANNA DURKIN RICHER**
and **MEG KINNARD**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Saturday that he would be nominating senior White House aide Lindsey Halligan to serve as the top federal prosecutor for the Virginia office that was thrown into turmoil when its U.S. attorney was pushed out Friday.

In a social media post just after he departed the White House for an event at Mount Vernon, Trump wrote he was nominating Halligan as U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, writing that she "will be Fair, Smart, and will provide, desperately needed, JUSTICE FOR ALL!" The announcement came as Trump pressed Attorney General Pam Bondi to move forward with pursuing cases against some of his political opponents, part of a vow for retribution that has been a theme of his return to the White House.

The nomination would place one of the president's legal defenders in charge of an office in tumult over political pressure by administration officials to criminally charge New York Attorney General Letitia James, a longtime foe of Trump, in a mortgage fraud investigation.

Erik Siebert, who had been the office's top prosecutor, resigned amid a push by Trump administration officials to bring charges in the investigation, which



An American Red Cross Disaster Relief van is parked outside a hotel that is acting as a reunification center after a shooting at a country club in Nashua, New Hampshire, Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025.

Associated Press

stems from allegations of paperwork discrepancies on James' Brooklyn townhouse and a Virginia home. The Justice Department has spent months investigating, and there's been no indication that prosecutors have managed to uncover any degree of incriminating evidence necessary to secure an indictment. James' lawyers have vigorously denied any allegations and characterized the investigation as an act of political revenge. Halligan has been part of Trump's legal orbit for the last several years, including serving as one of his at-

torneys in the early days of the FBI's investigation into Trump's retention of classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida. She has more recently been enlisted in a White House effort to remove what the administration contends is "improper ideology" from Smithsonian properties.

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tigations, including the one into James' dealings. Trump's message mentioned former FBI Director James Comey, Trump's longtime foil whom he fired during his first term amid the Russia election interference investigation.

The FBI acknowledged this summer that it was investigating Comey, who was interviewed by the Secret Service after an Instagram post that Republicans insisted was a call for violence against Trump. Comey has said he did not mean the post as a threat and removed it once he realized how it was being interpreted.

Asked as he departed the White House if he was criticizing Bondi, Trump said he just wanted action.

"We have to act fast — one way or the other," Trump said. "They're guilty, they're not guilty — we have to act fast. If they're not guilty, that's fine. If they are guilty or if they should be charged, they should be charged. And we have to do it now." In announcing Halligan's nomination soon after on social media, Trump said that Bondi was "doing a GREAT job." The selection of Halligan came just hours after another conservative lawyer, Mary "Maggie" Cleary, said in an email to staff that she had been named acting U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, according to a copy viewed by The Associated Press.

"While this appointment was unexpected, I am humbled to be joining your ranks," Cleary, a conservative lawyer who has said she was falsely accused of being at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, told employees in the email.

While Siebert said in an email to colleagues Friday evening that he had submitted his resignation, Trump said in a social media post: "He didn't quit, I fired him!" Trump noted he was backed by the state's two Democratic senators, Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, adding: "Next time let him go in as a Democrat, not a Republican." □



A large banner showing the U.S. Constitution is held up before the U.S. Capitol building, Friday, Sept. 19, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

By **MIKE PESOLI**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Over the span of 14 days, nearly 200 people marched from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C., in defense of de-

mocracy.

From children to the elderly, members of the We Are America march arrived in the nation's capital on a warm and sunny Friday afternoon, tired but joyous,

160-mile march for democracy arrives in Washington from Philadelphia

where they were greeted with hugs and cheers from supporters and members of Congress.

The mission of their sprawling walk was to unite a movement strong enough to hold America's leaders accountable in the face of mass firings at government agencies, the federal takeover of the District of Columbia's law enforcement and myriad disagreements with actions made by the Trump administration and the president himself.

Marchers from across the country gathered in Phil-

adelphia, then trekked through Newark, Delaware; Wilmington, Delaware; Baltimore and beyond. Along the way they were housed in churches, where they slept in pews, or at people's homes. One night the group camped outdoors. Founding member Maggie Bohara said the marchers were warmly greeted in every community they entered, given food, water and shelter.

"It really showed that there are people who believe in what we believe in and that we're not alone in this,"

Bohara said.

80-year-old Dianne Shaw-Cummins and her son Ted Regnaud were members of the march. Shaw-Cummins, who lives in Arizona but spends the summer in Minnesota with Regnaud, said one morning her son asked how she felt about walking from Philadelphia to Washington, to which she replied, "I can do that." "I want better for my grandchildren. I want better for my children. I want better for all people that live and breathe in the United States of America," she said. □

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Canada joins other countries in recognizing a Palestinian state ahead of U.N. General Assembly

By ROB GILLIES
Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canada recognized a Palestinian state on Sunday, despite opposition from the U.S., with the hope it paves the way for peace based on two states living side by side.

Prime Minister Mark Carney announced on the social platform X that Canada had recognized a Palestinian state. Britain and Australia also announced that they were doing the same on Sunday.

"The current Israeli government is working methodically to prevent the prospect of a Palestinian state from ever being established," Carney said in a statement.

"It has pursued an unrelenting policy of settlement expansion in the West Bank, which is illegal under international law. Its sustained assault in Gaza has killed tens of thousands of civilians, displaced well over one million people, and caused a devastating and preventable famine in violation of international law. It is now



Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney listens to his earpiece during a joint press conference with Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum at the National Palace in Mexico City, Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025.

Associated Press

the avowed policy of the current Israeli government that 'there will be no Palestinian state'."

Carney had already said in late July he would do so as many Western countries are increasingly dismayed by the intensifying war in Gaza. The moves by Canada, the U.K. and Australia prompted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to say that the establishment of a Palestinian state "will not happen," while Hamas urged the in-

ternational community to isolate Israel.

Netanyahu, who is set to give a speech to the General Assembly on Friday before heading to see U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House, said he would announce Israel's response after the trip.

Trump had previously threatened Canada, saying Canada's announcement "will make it very hard" for the United States to reach a trade agreement with its

northern neighbor.

The moves by the longtime commonwealth allies come ahead of the U.N. General Assembly this week. France is also expected to recognize a Palestinian state.

The formal recognition of Palestinian statehood by Western countries has angered Israel and the United States, which say recognition emboldens extremists and rewards Hamas, the group that led the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks into southern Israel that triggered the war. Pressure to formally recognize Palestinian statehood has increased since French President Emmanuel Macron announced this summer that his country will become the first major Western power to do so in September.

Macron is to formally declare France's recognition of a Palestinian state on Monday at a United Nations conference in New York co-chaired with Saudi Arabia, at the start of the U.N. General Assembly.

More than 145 countries already recognize a Pales-

tinian state, including more than a dozen in Europe.

Carney has previously said Canada is working with other states "to preserve the possibility of a two-state solution, to not allow the facts on the ground, deaths on the ground, the settlements on the ground, the expropriations on the ground, to get to such an extent that this is not possible."

Netanyahu's government rejects a two-state solution. Canada has long supported the idea of an independent Palestinian state existing alongside Israel, but has said recognition should come as part of a negotiated two-state solution to the conflict. "This in no way legitimizes terrorism, nor is it any reward for it," Carney said in his statement. "Furthermore, it in no way compromises Canada's steadfast support for the State of Israel, its people, and their security — security that can only ultimately be guaranteed through the achievement of a comprehensive two-state solution." □

U.S. lawmakers push for military dialogue in a rare China visit

By HUIZHONG WU
Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — A bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers pushed for more military-to-military dialogue in a meeting Sunday with China's Premier Li Qiang, a rare congressional visit since the U.S.-China relations soured. The last trip by a group of senators was in 2023, and Sunday's delegation was the first from the House of Representatives to visit Beijing since 2019.

Li welcomed the delegates led by Rep. Adam Smith and

called it an "icebreaking trip that will further the ties between the two countries."

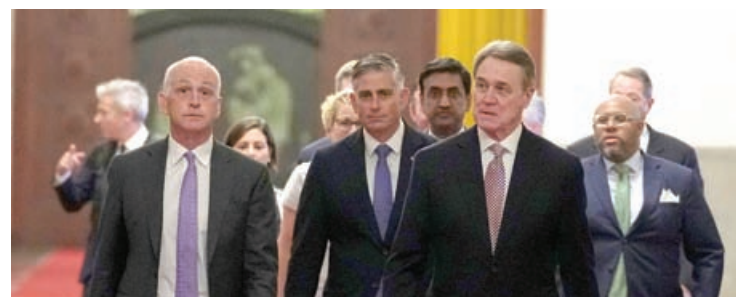
"It is important for our two countries to have more exchanges and cooperation, this is not only good for our two countries but also of great significance to the world," Li said.

Smith, a Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, said both sides were in agreement on the overarching aim of the visit.

"Certainly, trade and economy is on the top of the list ... (but also) we're very focused

on our military-to-military conversations," he said in opening remarks. "As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I'm deeply concerned that our two militaries don't communicate more." The delegation also included Michael Baumgartner, a Republican member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, as well as Ro Khanna and Chrissy Houlahan, both Democrats on the House Armed Services Committee. The lawmakers are in China until Thursday.

U.S.-China relations have



Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash, left, leads a bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers including from left Chrissy Houlahan, Democratic member of House Armed Services Committee, Michael Baumgartner, Republican member of House Foreign Affairs Committee, Ro Khanna, Democratic member of House Armed Services Committee and David Perdue, US Ambassador to China for a meeting with Chinese Premier Li Qiang at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025.

Associated Press

taken a downturn since President Donald Trump's first term and have been hobbled by trade tensions, the status of the self-ruled island of Tai-

wan, which China claims as its own territory, Beijing's support for Russia and China's vast claims in the disputed South China Sea. □

Brazilians protest against bill that could lead to a pardon for Bolsonaro and allies

By GABRIELA SÁ PESSOA
Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Brazilians held protests in all 26 states and the Federal District on Sunday against a possible pardon for former President Jair Bolsonaro and his allies, who were convicted of attempting a coup.

Calls for demonstrations grew after the lower house on Tuesday passed a constitutional amendment that would make it harder to arrest or launch criminal proceedings against lawmakers. The measure now heads to the Senate.

The following day the lower house voted to fast-track a bill backed by right-wing opposition lawmakers that could grant amnesty to Bolsonaro, his closest allies and hundreds of supporters convicted for their roles in the January 2023 uprising.

Bolsonaro was sentenced to 27 years and three months in prison on Sept. 11 for attempting to stay in power after losing a 2022 reelection bid. He is the first former president convicted of trying to overturn an election in Latin America's largest economy. Bolsonaro denied any wrongdoing.

Some of Brazil's most prominent artists helped organize and promote Sunday's



A demonstrator holds up a sign that reads in Portuguese, "No amnesty, enemy Congress," in front of a doll of former president Jair Bolsonaro as a prisoner, during a protest against an amnesty bill that could absolve Bolsonaro and his allies convicted for a 2023 coup attempt, in Brasilia, Brazil, Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025.

Associated Press

demonstrations.

Music legends Caetano Veloso, Chico Buarque and Gilberto Gil — who defied censorship during the military dictatorship of the 1960s — reunited in Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana neighborhood to protest.

"I was outraged by the news that many deputies voted in favor of a shielding law for themselves and their colleagues," Veloso told Brazil-

ian news outlet UOL in an interview published Saturday. "This, along with a proposal for amnesty for the coup plotters. I think I identified with the majority of the Brazilian population, who do not want these things to go through."

Anitta, a superstar born in Rio de Janeiro, also criticized the proposal in a video shared on Instagram. "The people are the ones

who shape the country's politics. We have the right and the duty to hold politicians accountable, after all, we vote and they work for the good of the population," she said.

Dulce Oliveira, a 53-year-old teacher who attended the demonstration in Brasilia, echoed Anitta's indignation. "This protest is important because the people need to show them what

we want, because they are there to represent our needs, not their own," she said.

Brazilian actor Wagner Moura attended the protest in Salvador, Bahia. Speaking to the crowd from the top of a truck, he said he was not willing to talk about the legislative proposals. Instead, he emphasized "this extraordinary moment in Brazilian democracy, which serves as an example to the entire world."

Sunday's protests were organized by artists and left-wing groups that have struggled to mobilize large crowds compared with the right. On Sept. 7, ahead of Bolsonaro's Supreme Court trial, thousands of his supporters rallied in his defense. Polls show the country remains deeply divided over Bolsonaro.

A majority supports his conviction and imprisonment, but a significant share of the population still backs him. According to a Datafolha poll released Sept. 16, 50% of respondents said Bolsonaro should be jailed, while 43% disagreed and 7% declined to answer. The survey interviewed 2,005 people nationwide and had a margin of error of 2 percentage points. □



Protesters carry signs as they march during a rally against government corruption at the EDSA People Power Monument in suburban Mandaluyong, east of Manila, Philippines, Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025.

Associated Press

By JIM GOMEZ, JOEAL CALUPITAN and AARON FAVILA
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine police arrested 49 people suspected of hurling rocks, bottles and fire bombs at officers and

blocking heavily guarded roads and bridges leading to the presidential palace Sunday while a peaceful anti-corruption rally took place in the capital, officials and witnesses said. The melee outside the country's seat of

Dozens arrested and hurt in clashes with police near Philippine presidential palace

power unfolded while more than 33,000 other protesters rallied in a historic park and a democracy monument in Manila. They expressed outrage over a corruption scandal involving lawmakers, officials and construction company owners who allegedly pocketed huge kickbacks from flood-control projects in the impoverished Southeast Asian country that is regularly buffeted by storms and typhoons.

The hourslong rampage by about 100 mostly club-wielding people, some of whom waved Philippine flags and displayed carton posters with anti-corruption slogans, wounded about 70 Manila law enforcers, according to

the Manila police. Schools were canceled due to the violence. Police said they lobbed tear gas to try to disperse the attackers, who sprayed graffiti on walls, toppled steel posts, shattered glass panels and ransacked the lobby of a budget inn along a popular road dotted with university campuses, banks and restaurants before dispersing at night.

Hours after the assault, police have yet to identify the attackers, some of whom carried black flags with the caricature of a skull and crossbones. It was also unclear if they had earlier participated in the peaceful protests before heading toward the presidential of-

fice. It was not immediately known if President Marcos Jr. was in the Malacanang presidential palace during the chaos.

Police said in a statement after the arrests that the situation was "contained" but warned that violence and vandalism would not be tolerated.

Protesting corruption "I feel bad that we wallow in poverty and we lose our homes, our lives and our future while they rake in a big fortune from our taxes that pay for their luxury cars, foreign trips and bigger corporate transactions," student activist Althea Trinidad told The Associated Press in Manila. □

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Beautiful areas around Aruba



(Oranjestad)—Aruban born and bred Steve Francees has a passion for photography. Being a local photographer he knows the hidden gems of this island and captures them in an amazing way. Here are some of the most beautiful areas around Aruba.

The hidden Natural Bridge
Here in Aruba we have three natural bridges and many see this one on think-

ing that it's the world famous one but it's not. The why is easy, its way too dangerous to go down the cliff to reach this beauty and no tour companies will do that. Some people refuse to go down due fear of height. To reach this beauty you must go to San Nicolas and drive up the hill till The Point Lighthouse, park your car and walk until you reach the east point coast and go left along the

coastline and good luck going down the cliff.

Surfside Beach

This beach was very famous when we were kids and many locals love to swim at this beach. After some years the locals shifted to the more north-west beaches like Eagle, Boca Catalina and Arashi but after the government renovated the whole area it got a new facelift and its back as a family beach and weekends are just amazing at this area.

Natural Bridge at Blackstone Beach

As mentioned, there are three natural bridges and this one is in the Arikok National Park. The other two Bridges you can visit by car but for this one you must have a 4X4 jeep or you will get stuck at the Andicuri Beach. □



Aruba to me: Antoinetta DeWit

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely mes-

sage from Antoinetta DeWit, from Canada.

They wrote to us saying: "There are many reasons I love Aruba. Attending this year's International Day of Peace was my number one reason today (September 21). The Peace Tree is more than just a tree; it is a global symbol of collaboration and love for our planet and all who (and all things that) live here. The roots of the trees metaphorically create connections as we do in our thinking and messaging. This is a movement that transcends borders, cultures, and generations. It seems like a small effort but every effort to show respect for our Earth and each other on this International Day of Peace and every day, makes a difference ... this tree on Aruba is native to the Island. It can be viewed at Club Kibrahacha. It is called Pali Sia Cora."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

Dining in? Try making some local favorites!

How to make “pan bati” and “funchi”



(Oranjestad)—If you're ever up for an Aruban snack, try making another Aruban classic appetizer called Pan Bati. Similar to a pancake both in appearance and cooking, this is a super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

Ingredients:

2 cups of all purpose flour
1 cup grams of fine cornmeal (we recommend the Harina PAN brand)
2 tbsp baking powder
1 1/3 cup of milk
1 pinch of salt
2 tbsp of granulated sugar
Oil for cooking

Instructions:

Add all the dry ingredients in a bowl first, and stir until well mixed. Then add the milk and beat until reached a pancake-like consistency. If more moisture is needed, add some water until reached desired consistency.

In a hot pan with oil, pour in enough batter to cover the bottom of the pan. Just like pancakes, flip the pan bati when one side turns golden brown. When your pan bati is

ready, place on a plate and cover with a clean kitchen towel.

Traditionally, pan bati is cut in triangle pieces, and is often eaten as a side dish with soup, fried fish or stews. However, it is also casually enjoyed with some butter and cheese on top!

One of the most famous Aruban snacks or appetizers is “funchi hasa” (fried polenta sticks). A super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

Before we start, get to know the basics

So what is funchi hasa? Funchi, or Aruban polenta, is a popular side dish for local dishes, like soups, stews and fried fish. Made from a corn flour, water and butter mixture, this appetizer is traditionally eaten alongside a warm meal. However, locals also like to fry sticks of funchi for a quick and filling snack.

Ingredients (measured by heart)

1. Polenta flour*
2. Water
3. Butter
4. Salt to taste

Directions

Bring water to a boil in a medium-sized sauce pan. Add in some salt and butter to taste in the boiling water and let this dissolve and melt. Then, gradually add the flour while stirring with a wooden spoon. The mixture will start to begin to



harden pretty fast, so be careful not to add too much. At this phase of cooking, you want a goopy thick mixture, but thin enough so you can continue to stir to get all the lumps out.

After reaching a semi-firm, yet flexible texture, grab a baking pan or any large, deep plate, and pour the mixture in. Be sure that this plate is wet or greased so that the

mixture does not stick to the bottom. Let this cool completely while it firms up for the last time. Once it's cooled you can enjoy it as is, topped with some butter or shredded cheese. Or, you can take it to another level of deliciousness.

When your funchi is firm enough, cut it into strips (size is up to you). Heat up some oil in a pan and fry those babies up! After frying, you can top it with some cheese or enjoy it with your favorite dipping sauce.

Note: We recommend the FUNCHI FRESKU polenta flour brand that is sold in all supermarkets on the island. You can also use yellow corn flour from the brand PAN.□

Photo credit of fried funchi sticks: Jacqueline Felida on Pinterest.



Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!

(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral

reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio

Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down

when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times on the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side

are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserve our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen!□





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Did you know about... Basic driving rules on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.

Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the



one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need to switch to the left lane on the high way before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky

to navigate...

Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confused among both tourists and locals.

However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The fa-

vorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

"Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located near the Talk of the Town hotel, west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the

most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt! □

Sun catchers: The different lizards in Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Colorful or camouflaged, you're bound to encounter a variety of lizards basking in the sun or scurrying on their way in our island. From the charming, friendly iguanas to the good-luck gecko Pega-Pega, you're bound to meet a few of these special residents during your visit.

Aruba, as a desert island, is home to an incredible variety of unique and colorful species. Among them we can find different lizards, most of which have South American origins. But there are a few exceptions.

Iguanas



Iguanas are easy to spot, as they are larger than most other lizards and when young, have a bright green color that makes them stand out.

The iguanas usually found in Aruba are the Iguana iguana, known as the green iguana, or locally as Yuwana. The Yuwana are a mostly herbivorous species, and can grow up to 2 meters in size, including the tail, making them one of the largest in the iguana family. As you will see, despite their name, as they reach adulthood, the iguanas can take on a grey or blue tone instead of the bright green displayed by the young ones. In Aruba – as in the rest of the Kingdom of the Netherlands – the most usual color varies from green to lavender, black and sometimes a reddish brown.

Yuwana is a protected species, as it is listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meaning that international trade is regulated through the CITES permit system. In the past, Arubans used to eat a popular Yuwana soup, as it was believed to give strength and help restore health – probably due to the protein boost it delivered. However, it is now illegal to catch, kill, buy or sell Yuwanas in Aruba, and this includes eating them!

Turnip-tailed gecko

The turnip-tailed gecko is known locally as the Pega-Pega, meaning sticky-sticky, due to the way it sticks to walls using the suction in its little



fingers. They are found inside houses, and are mostly a nocturnal animal.

According to Etnia Nativa, the local Pega Pega is immediately recognizable by its large size, with a body length of up to 12 cm, and its large, swollen tail, approximately the same length or slightly shorter than its body; females are larger and more robust than males. It has short, robust legs with flattened toes and extensive basal webbing.

The undersides of its toes are covered in lamellae, which are used as friction pads to cling to smooth vertical surfaces. Some can even walk around completely upside down. Its toes are covered with ridges, which are peppered with millions of microscopic bristle-like structures called setae that attach and detach when the animal wills them to, and they never get gunked up.

They are variable in coloration, from a mottled dark gray to orange-brown, and are capable of changing color depending on their mood and surroundings. Mottled and banded markings aid in camouflage against tree bark. They are harmless and fragile; you can hold one in your hands as long as you are VERY gentle. Never put pressure on its tail because it will surely drop as a measure to try to distract the predator, and they are different from other lizards because they're long-lived, talkative, lack eyelids, and their small scales are situated next to each other like cobblestones rather than overlapping as is the case in most other lizards.

Turnip-tailed Geckos are insectivorous and feed on cockroaches, grasshoppers, beetles, flies, mosquitoes, and spiders, which makes them the best pest control to have at home! They spend their days concealed in dark tree grooves and cavities, in narrow crevices in the walls, or behind paintings, which provide the perfect shelter for them. Pega pega is a gecko endemic to our island, but in time, some 4–5 intrusive gecko species have been observed, some of which do not cease to amaze us with the racket they make, especially during the hours of the night.

The Pega-pega Phyllodactylus Julieni is also a protected species in Aruba, by law. It is illegal to kill them!

Blue Kododo

These are one of the most striking lizards in Aruba, recognizable by the male's bright blue color. The Aruban whiptail lizard, Cnemidophorus arubensis, is a species endemic to Aruba, meaning you can only find it here on our One Happy Island! They are also recognized as the

most common and populous lizard on the island. While the male is blue with white dots, the female is brown with blue dots.

These charming lizards eat mostly plants, such as flowers, nectar, leaves and fruits, and occasionally enjoy some insects. They are selective in which plants they eat, because of the toxins present in many available plants species. The Kododo help take care of Aruba's vegetation by playing a significant role in the dispersal of seeds for certain plants: when they eat fruit, they excrete the seeds in diverse locations, contributing to the reproduction cycle of our local plants.

Striped anole

The striped anole (Anolis lineatus) that lives in Aruba is known locally as Waltaka or Toteki. This is a species of lizard in the family Dactyloidae, and they are native to Aruba and Curaçao. It is usually found in dry areas, commonly where there are not large trees; rather they enjoy rocks, walls or tree trunks, as they prefer to stay close to the ground.

These lizards are about 7cm in length, have a brown color with a stripe on each side and typically, several stripes on the body and tail that are lighter in color. It has a dewlap which is orange-yellow – and what's unique about this species is that it is the only known species of anole where the dewlap is asymmetrically colored, with one side being a deeper orange and the other side a lighter yellow. Mostly this is seen in the males, as it is almost imperceptible in the females. If the Toteki shows you his dewlap, retreat! This is not a friendly greeting!

Lizards are wonderful creatures that are precious to our fragile, local ecosystem. Please be mindful of these residents as you enjoy your stay. □

Images: Some images are from Aruba Birdlife Conservation.



Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—This year we celebrate a few milestone anniversaries on Aruba, one of them being the 200th anniversary of when gold was first discovered on the island. We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold.

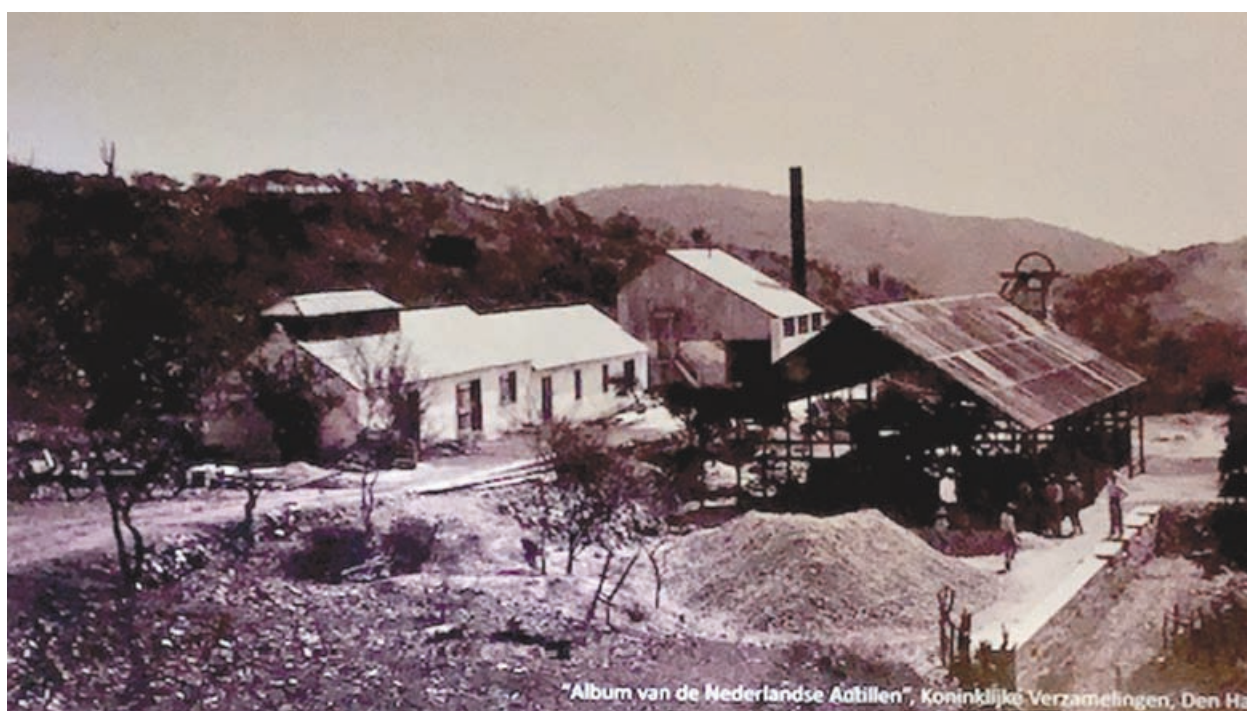
When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In August of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safe guard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rooi Fluit, Hadicouradi and later West punt, where gold ore was found. Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun. Then, workers would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers. The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the goldmines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjestad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.

By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above



ground.

Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that were found were transported via track engine, locally called the “trekinchi”. Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

A local firm, the “Aruba Goud Maatschappij” (Aruba Gold Company) took over the concession, along with all the materials and equipment. In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process. By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill. According to an issue in Aruba Esso News paper in 1953, Henny Eman wanted to start up digging again, this time using independent miners. He argued that there was proof of more gold to be discovered. Plus, hiring independent miners would boost the island's employment rate.

When it was proven that gold was in fact still present, the executive board on the island promised to fund the project only if the gold dug up proved to be valuable. However, nothing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first wave of industrialization. Today,

these structures are persevered as historical monuments. □

Source:

1. “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue.



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

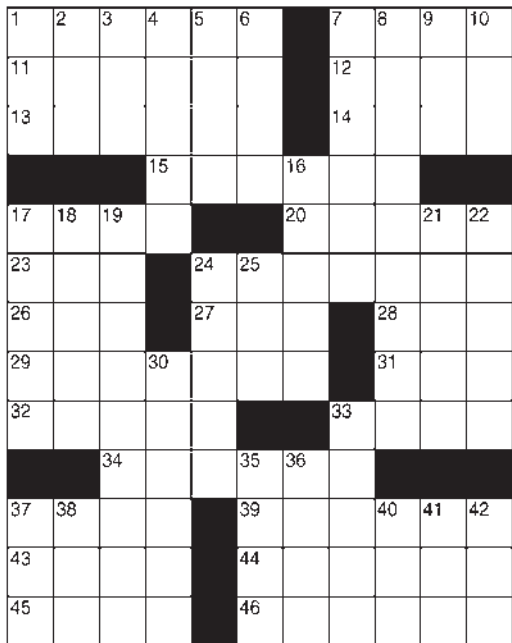
ACROSS

- 1 Use mouth-wash
7 Minor fight
11 Spain setting
12 Half a sextet
13 Biased, in a way
14 Took the bus
15 Musical mixture
17 Spiked club
20 Plentiful
23 Make goofs
24 Yokel
26 In addition
27 Low bill
28 U.N.'s Hammar-skjöld
29 Hires
31 Try out
32 Swift
33 Ignored the limit
34 Guarantee
37 Put together
39 Inn
43 Photo problem
44 Aviator Earhart
45 Skiing mecca
46 Bygone cab

DOWN

- 1 USO patrons
2 Penny prez
3 Mystery writer
4 Stout
5 Filth
6 Maggie and Bart's sister
7 Puts away
8 Makes banjo music
9 Braced
10 Lend a hand
11 Sock part
12 Grant's successor
13 Taxi part
14 Fragrance
15 Arose
16 Tenant's paper
17 Defeated, but barely
18 Parka parts
19 One or more
20 Cruise ships
21 Middling card
22 Arose
23 Tenant's paper
24 Defeated, but barely
25 Parka parts
26 One or more
27 Cruise ships
28 Middling card
29 Arose
30 Tenant's paper
31 Defeated, but barely
32 Parka parts
33 One or more
34 Cruise ships
35 Middling card
36 Arose
37 Tenant's paper
38 Defeated, but barely
39 Parka parts
40 One or more
41 Cruise ships
42 Middling card
35 Golden Spike state
36 Hindu hero
37 CEO's deg.
38 Utterly
40 Golfer Ernie
41 Carnival city
42 "Platoon" setting

WADES HURON
ACUTE OMAHA
GREAT PLAINS
EEL SUM DOH
CUBES
AESOP SCALE
GLEN OXEN
OMEGA GREED
ARGON
TEE GAB SPA
HYDROPLANES
ARIES EDITH
WEEDY TOPSY



9-27

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-27

CRYPTOQUOTE

G E D C V E D G E F X D G F M X N J R

R J X D C V , D K D C F C D K F J O D

P D O F A D R Z F G D M H I X .

— A S X S X S W F I R S H T S J

Cryptoquote: IF I CAN STOP ONE HEART FROM BREAKING, I SHALL NOT LIVE IN VAIN. — EMILY DICKINSON.

Cruise ship Schedule: Sep 16 - 30 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
TUE	16	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
TUE	23	CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
		ISLAND PRINCESS	09.00	21.00	B	1
		FREEWINDS	10.00	****	E	1
WED	24	OASIS OF THE SEAS	07.00	16.00	I	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
SUN	28	GRAND PRINCESS	09.00	17.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	30	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



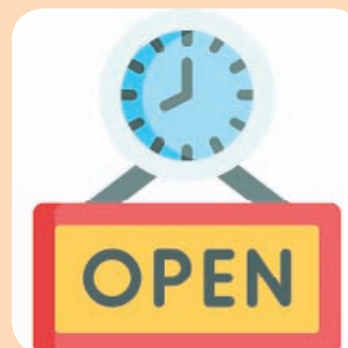
Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

	1			2	5			4
		3	6				8	2
						6		
		4	2			1	9	3
	3	5		6		2	7	
	2	8		1		4		
	8	2	1	4			5	6
4		7			6	8		
5			8	7		3	4	

Difficulty: ★

9/22

Answer to previous puzzle

4	3	6	5	8	9	7	2	1
2	5	9	7	6	1	8	4	3
1	7	8	3	2	4	6	5	9
6	8	5	4	9	2	1	3	7
3	2	7	6	1	5	4	9	8
9	4	1	8	3	7	5	6	2
5	1	3	9	4	8	2	7	6
8	9	4	2	7	6	3	1	5
7	6	2	1	5	3	9	8	4

Difficulty: ★★★★★

9/21

Blaney opens 2nd round of NASCAR Cup playoffs with New Hampshire win as Penske dominates



Ryan Blaney celebrates after winning a NASCAR Cup Series race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025, in Loudon, N.H.

LOUDON, N.H. (AP) — Ryan Blaney opened the second round of the NASCAR Cup Series playoffs with an emphatic victory for Team Penske, which flaunted its speed at New Hampshire Motor Speedway on Sunday. Blaney, the 2023 Cup champion, led 116 laps, including the final 39, to beat Josh Berry by 0.937 seconds for his third victory of the season. Blaney, who is trying to reach the Championship 4 season finale for the third consecutive year, became the first driver to advance into one of the eight available spots in the third round of the Cup playoffs. "What a cool day, what a cool weekend, super fast car," Blaney said. "It's great to get a win in the first race of the round."

William Byron finished third, and Joey Logano, Blaney's Penske teammate, took fourth after leading a race-high 147 of 301 laps. After qualifying 27th, last among the 12 playoff drivers, Chase Elliott raced to a fifth-place finish. Christopher Bell took sixth as the top finishing driver for Joe Gibbs Racing, which went undefeated in the first round of the playoffs. Bell was followed by Kyle Larson and Ross Chastain as playoff drivers took seven of the top eight spots on the 1.058-mile oval.

The Penske Fords backed up

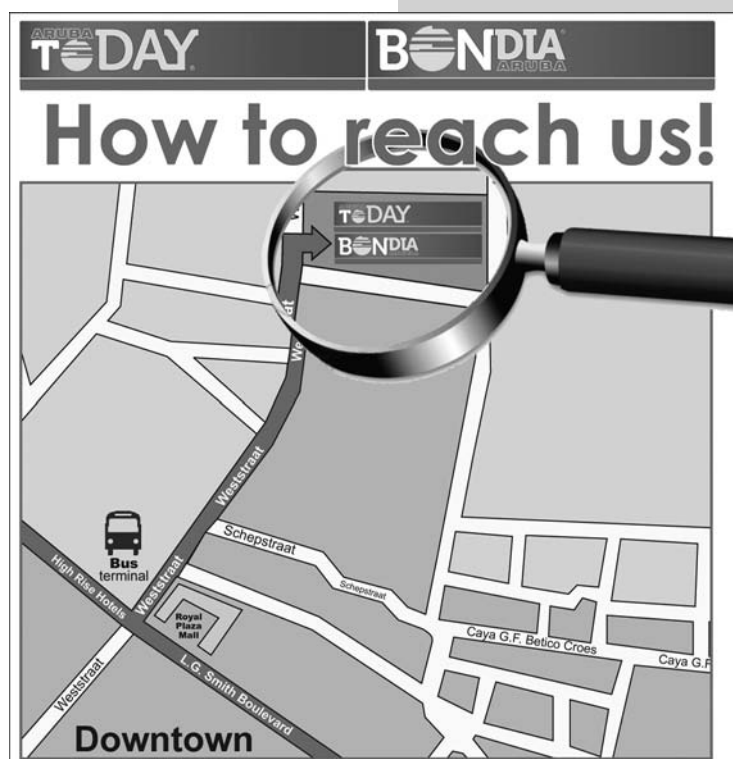
their impressive performances in Saturday's qualifying when Logano won the pole position to cap a top-three sweep with Blaney and Berry, whose Wood Brothers Racing Ford has a competitive alliance with Penske. Teammates tangle The race turned awkward for Joe Gibbs Racing on Lap 110 when Denny Hamlin spun teammate Ty Gibbs into the Turn 2 wall while racing for 11th. Gibbs, the only JGR driver who failed to qualify for the playoffs, seemed to be impeding the progress of teammates Hamlin and Christopher Bell when the incident happened.

"Does Ty know we're running for a championship?" Hamlin said on his team radio shortly before they made contact. "What the (expletive) is he doing?" After the wreck, Hamlin questioned whether the grandson of team owner Joe Gibbs was getting preferential treatment. "Are they afraid to talk to him? That's what I feel like," Hamlin radioed his team. "They're just

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thumpy98@aol.com

325751



scared of him."

Ty Gibbs briefly returned to the track before being forced to the garage with damage to his Camry. He finished 34th and refused to address the incident or what Hamlin said when asked directly about both.

"It's unfortunate, but I'm excited to go race next week and looking forward to it," said Gibbs, the 2022 Xfinity Series champion who remains winless through 117 starts in the Cup series.

Streaks are over After dominating the first round with three consecutive victories, Joe Gibbs Racing surprisingly faltered in the first stage at New Hampshire, where the team had won the past three Cup races and six consecutive stages. The team failed to earn any points in the first stage Sunday as Hamlin, Bell and Chase Briscoe finished outside the top 10 in the 70-lap segment. □



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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Kelsey Mitchell scores 34 points, leads Fever to Game 1 upset win over Aces, 89-73

By W.G. RAMIREZ

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Kelsey Mitchell scored a playoff-career high 34 points and the Indiana Fever beat the Las Vegas Aces 89-73 on Sunday in Game 1 of the best-of-five semifinal series. After seeing their double-digit lead shrink to three points with 2:51 left in the third, the Fever closed the quarter on an 11-0 run to extend their advantage to 14 points, seizing control of the game and never looking back.

Mitchell, who finished fifth in MVP voting with 93 points, scored 17 points in the first half, setting the tone for the Fever's offense. The veteran guard, who finished the regular season ranked third in scoring with 20.2 points per game, shot 12 of 23 (52.2%) from the floor, including 4 of 6 from 3-point range for the game.

Odyssey Sims had 17 points, while Natasha Howard finished with a double-double (12 points, 11 rebounds).



Las Vegas Aces guard Chelsea Gray (12) reacts after a foul by the Indiana Fever in the first half of Game 1 of a WNBA basketball playoff semifinals series Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

The Fever finished the game hitting 50% from the floor (34 of 68), while the Aces shot just 29 of 71 (40.8%).

The victory spoiled A'ja Wilson's celebration for becoming the WNBA's first player to win four MVPs in her career. The 29-year-old, who was also named

the AP Player of the Year, finished with 16 points and 13 rebounds. Wilson shot just 27.3% (6 of 22) from the field. Jackie Young led the Aces with 19 points, while

Dana Evans came off the bench to score 14 points and Chelsea Gray chipped in with 13.

Las Vegas hadn't lost at home since Aug. 2, when the top-seeded Minnesota Lynx handed the Aces the worst home loss in WNBA history, a 53-point beat-down. From that point, the Aces closed the regular season on a 16-game win streak before defeating the Seattle Storm in the opening round.

The win was even more impressive, considering the Aces came into the game without a single player on the injured list, while the Fever had six.

Already shorthanded without Chloe Bibby (left knee), Caitlin Clark (right groin), Sydney Colson (left knee), Sophie Cunningham (right knee) and Aari McDonald (right foot), Indiana added Damiris Dantas to the list, as she was in concussion protocol. □

Relays in the rain! Sha'Carri, Sydney, Noah anchor wins on a big closing day for Americans at worlds



Sha'Carri Richardson reacts after crossing the finish line to win the women's 4 X 100 meters relay at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025.

Associated Press

By EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Sha'Carri Richardson saved the day in her relay.

Noah Lyles and Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone put exclamation points on theirs. The best in the U.S. splashed through the rainy relays Sunday in Tokyo to capture three gold medals and close out world championships on a night when track also bid

a hug-filled farewell to Jamaica's sprint legend, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce. "I felt like I ran with my heart because of the ladies I'm standing with," Richardson said, as she celebrated her first gold medal of a championships that was far from perfect. "I feel really good. It came back. I'm ready to start all over again."

It has been a tough, injury-tainted year for Richardson,

who finished fifth last weekend in the women's 100. Even so, the U.S. put her on the anchor leg for the 4x100 relay — same place she's been for gold-medal performances the last two years — and she didn't disappoint.

But unlike last year at the Olympics, when she gave the side-eye to the opponents she passed, then stomped her foot for emphasis at the finish line, she had to run hard all the way through in this one.

Richardson was actually trailing by .01 when she received the baton from Kayla White. It took a few steps for her to build a lead of her own, and she held off Jonielle Smith down the stretch and leaned in for the win in 41.75 seconds. It was a .04-second margin, and the difference might have been a slight hiccup in an exchange between Jamaican twins Tia and Tina Clayton. The U.S. had none of those problems. A full-circle moment for Jef-

erson-Wooden, Fraser-Pryce. In a couple of near-perfect, full-circle moments, it was Richardson's comeback that turned Melissa Jefferson-Wooden, who ran the lead leg, into the first three-time sprint winner at worlds — 100, 200 and relay — since Fraser-Pryce did it in 2013.

It also left the Jamaican they call the "Mommy Rocket" with silver, the same color she won in her debut at worlds, back in 2007 in Osaka when she was 20 and earned a spot on the foursome that ran the qualifying round.

"No emotions right now," Fraser-Pryce said. "Just grateful to be able to finish this race. It's been such a remarkable moment."

Jefferson-Wooden wasn't alone in seeking out Fraser-Pryce, whose medal was her 17th from world championships to go with eight from the Olympics, mostly to say "thanks."

"She's definitely paved the way for women's short sprints and it's so inspiring to see

someone like her do what she did and be so dominant for so long," Jefferson-Wooden said. "All of us up here are aspiring to do the same things."

Not lost in the celebration was that all four racers on that women's team — Tee Tee Terry ran the second leg — train together and that Richardson and Jefferson-Wooden figure to be vying to take Fraser-Pryce's place atop the sprint game in the lead-in to the LA Olympics. Lyles headlines a (rare) no-drama win in the men's 4x100. A few minutes after that relay, and with the rain still falling, Lyles crossed the line first to give the U.S. its 26th medal and 16th gold of the meet — totals that are more respectable after what, earlier in the week, had the makings of a bad meet.

The 26 overall medals are the same number they captured in the same stadium four years ago at the Tokyo Olympics. Only seven were gold that time. □

Marcus Mariota and a reconfigured Commanders offense run past the Raiders 41-24

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP National Writer

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — A reconfigured Commanders offense — nearly half the starters were different from a game ago, including quarterback Marcus Mariota filling in for an injured Jayden Daniels — produced 201 yards on the ground, 174 in the first half alone, and Washington beat the Las Vegas Raiders 41-24 on Sunday.

In his first NFL start since 2022 with Atlanta, Mariota went 15 for 21 for 206 yards with a late touchdown through the air, and ran six times for 40 yards, including a 2-yard TD on the game's opening possession. Mariota, the No. 2 overall pick in the 2015 draft after winning the Heisman Trophy at Oregon, also lost a fumble on a run.

In addition to Mariota's 43-yard scoring pass to Luke McCaffrey with a little more than two minutes left, Washington (2-1) got touchdowns via a 60-yard run by Jeremy McNichols, a 1-yard plunge by rookie seventh-round draft pick Jacory "Bill" Croskley-Merritt that was set up by Mariota's 56-yard throw to Terry McLaurin and a 90-yard punt return by rookie fourth-round selection Jaylin Lane. McNichols never had a run or reception that gained more than 28 yards in his eight NFL seasons before Sunday; his play was the longest rushing TD for Washington since Adrian Peterson scored from 90 yards out against Philadelphia in 2018.

Lane's return, meanwhile, tied for the longest punt score in franchise history and was the first for Washington since Jamison Crowder brought one back in 2016. Daniels sat out with an injured left knee, the first game he's missed since entering the NFL; he got hurt in Washington's 27-18 loss at Green Bay on Sept. 11.

Starting running back Austin Ekeler was lost for the season in that game with a torn Achilles tendon, and receiver Noah Brown picked up groin and knee issues that

held him out Sunday. Plus, guards Nick Allegretti and Brandon Coleman were both benched against the Raiders (1-2), replaced by Andrew Wylie and Chris Paul, with Trent Scott often checking in as a sixth offensive lineman. Washington's 174 yards on the ground in the first half were the most for the team since gaining that same number against Tampa Bay in 2010.

Chris Rodriguez started at running back after being inactive the first two weeks, and he ran on four of Washington's first five plays, gaining 25 yards, most by going to the left side behind tackle Laremy Tunsil.

Washington's defense still hasn't produced a turnover this season, but it did deliver five sacks of Geno Smith, including two by Bobby Wagner and one by Von Miller. Dorrance Armstrong became the third player in club history with at least one in each of a season's initial three games.

Smith was 19 for 29 for 289 yards and three scoring passes — all three to Tre Tucker, who caught eight throws for 145 yards. Ashton Jeanty, the No. 6 overall pick in the draft, started the day with 5 yards through five carries, but he finished with 63 yards on 17 runs.

Quinn bloodied by Mariota



Washington Commanders quarterback Marcus Mariota (8) scores a touchdown as Las Vegas Raiders linebacker Germaine Pratt (57) defends during the first half of NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025, in Landover, Md.

Associated Press

in collision

Commanders coach Dan Quinn was left bloodied after getting knocked over by Mariota in a sideline collision shortly before halftime.

Injuries

Raiders TE Michael Mayer left with a head injury after leading with his helmet

while making a tackle on a punt in the first quarter. ... Washington's McLaurin left in the second half with an injured quadriceps muscle. ... Commanders S Will Harris hurt his ankle in the first half and didn't return, and S Percy Butler left in the third quarter with a hip injury. □



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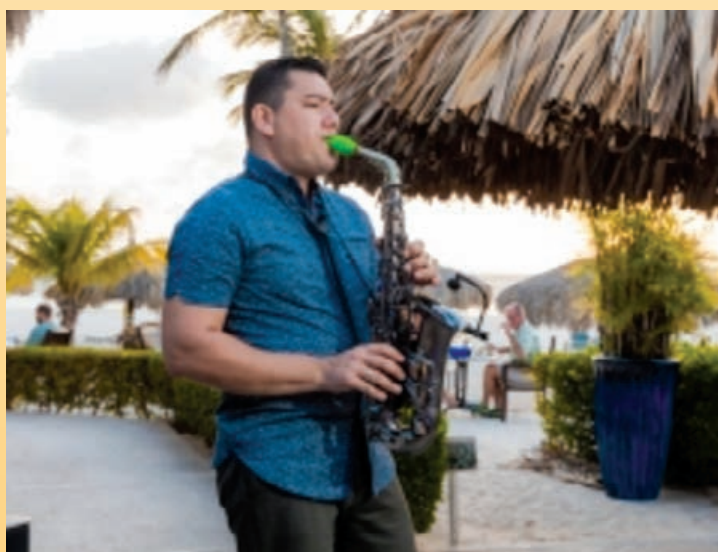
Create precious memories in the heart of Costa Linda Beach Resort Water's Edge Restaurant offers the complete vacation experience!



(Eagle Beach) – Consider your family dinner plans taken care of at Water's Edge. Located in the heart of the Costa Linda Beach Resort and on the shores of the world-famous Eagle Beach in Aruba, Water's Edge offers an elegant yet cozy dining experience that the entire family can enjoy. Whether you're craving Steak, Seafood, International Dishes or a bit of the Caribbean flare, Water's Edge caters to all your culinary needs, all the while offering you a cozy and flexible service with a spectacular view of Aruba's top-rated sandy beaches.

Water's Edge's new menu has a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts all on one menu specially made just for you. From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. Flexible and professional service allows you to enjoy your meal in the cool and elegant indoor dining area, on the sandy, breezy beaches of Eagle Beach or by the open bar outside. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, Water's Edge has it all for you, any time of the day.

Start your day off with a hearty breakfast. Water's Edge offers a variety of delicious breakfast items, including their house specialties of Avocado Toast, Chicken & Waffles made with homemade Belgium waffles and topped



with a gorgeous hot honey sauce. If you want something on the sweeter side, try their Crème Brûlée French Toast, served with an in-house mascarpone whip cream and topped with fresh fruit and powdered sugar. Or maybe the Traditional American Breakfast is more to your liking, complete with any kind of serving of eggs, bacon, sausage and toast, served with a side of hash browns.

For lunch, keep it easy with their handheld items like their Bacon and Cheddar Burger, Mediterranean Quesadillas or Street Tacos. Want a taste of the Caribbean? Try the Grouper Reuben; A local twist to the traditional Reuben, complete with rye bread, in-house 1000 island dressing, sauerkraut and grilled grouper, served with a side of Cajun Fries.

Dinner plans are set with Water's Edge mouthwatering dinner menu. Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the delectable Coconut Shrimp. You can also opt for their Water's Edge House Wedge Salad or freshly made Shrimp Louie Salad, made with poached shrimp, tossed in Louie dressing, fresh avocados and vine ripe tomatoes. For something a bit heartier, try their classic French Onion Soup, Lobster Bisque or Crab and Corn Chowder.

Follow your appetizers with your choice of Seafood, Chicken or Pasta dishes. Enjoy their succulent Shrimp and Clam Sauce with Angel Hair Pasta, a nice plate of Chicken Francese or explore the Water's Edge Fish Market—your pick of Mahi Mahi, Snapper, Grouper or Salmon, served with homemade mashed potatoes, sauce of choice and fresh herbs and vegetables.

Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of Steak, including a Petite Filet, French Rack of Lambs or their famous 14oz pan-seared Pork finished with a fantastic apple glaze. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi-glace, mushroom sauce, chimichurri or bacon blue cheese butter. Enjoy it with a side of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, and four different types of fries. Combine your meal with your personal



choice of international and exclusive wines.

Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled Kids Menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests.

End the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness. Choose from a variety of dessert options, including a piece of coconut flan, NY cheesecake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

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